

Marijke Niles – Class of 2002 – Northwest Chapter - Chittenden and Addison Counties



***What is your favorite area of gardening to learn about?**

Native plants and pollinators

***What is your favorite pest to manage?**

Birds and squirrels. I love them. Except for when they steal my berries!

***What would you consider to be your pride and joy in your home garden?**

My gardens flower all season. There is always something to take my breath away. They attract so much wildlife of all kinds.

***What is your favorite gardening "go to" book or other resource (educator, column, magazine, etc.) for research and learning on horticulture topics?**

Bringing Nature Home by Doug Tallamy. It continues to inspire me. This book is the main reason that my gardens have developed into a true haven.

***Do you have a favorite garden you like to visit? Favorite nursery to buy plants?**

The Maine Botanical Gardens. A must visit for everyone. I love all small nurseries, I always find something special. Even when I truly convince myself to not buy anything. Somehow I always find the perfect spot for it.

***What Master Gardener projects do you/have you worked on?**

The Vermont Rain Garden Manual. The process taught me so much. A favorite one day project was the creation of the pollinator garden at the Audubon gardens in Huntington. Such a great atmosphere! I loved facilitating new student courses. The energy! I also treasure the years on the Northwest Steering Committee and the Vermont Advisory Board. So many dedicated and wonderful people. The tours in my gardens. One of them attracted 89 Master Gardeners.

***What has changed about gardening since you first became a Master Gardener? What hasn't changed?**

Classes are now virtual, which is good for the busy student. No snow days either. I did love my classroom classes. It was the first contact with Vermont gardeners. They were so welcoming. The passion of the Master Gardener has not changed however!



Marijke, with Doug Tallamy